

**CLAIMS**

1. A device (1) for height and gradient compensation, comprising an arc-shaped bow (3) slidably arranged in a guide means (2; 21), the bow (3) protruding at least on one end from the guide means (2; 21) and this at least one bow end constituting a standing leg for the device, there being provided at least one additional supporting member (4; 2', 3'), characterized in that the bow (3) is arranged at an angle with respect to the perpendicular such that, in use, it is fixed in the guide means (2; 21) under the influence of gravity.
2. A device (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the angle with respect to the perpendicular is between 30° and 60°, in particular approx. 45°.
3. A device (1) according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that a resilient resetting means (19) is disposed such that it is capable of operationally resetting the arc-shaped bow (3) in the unloaded state to the initial position thereof.
4. A device (1) according to claim 3, characterized in that the resetting means comprises two coil springs (19) each attached on one of the portions of the bow (3) protruding from the guide means (2; 21).
5. A device (1) according to any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the outer diameter of the bow (3) substantially corresponds to the inner diameter of the guide means (2; 21).
6. A device (1) according to any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the guide means is an arc-shaped guide tube (2).
7. A device (1) according to any of claims 1 to 6,

480 characterized in that the guide means is formed of mutually spaced apart arc-shaped tube sections or rings (21).

8. A device (1) according to any of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that it comprises a supporting surface (5).
- 485 9. A device (1) according to claim 8, characterized in that the supporting surface (5) is rigidly joined to the guide means (2; 21) and/or the additional supporting member (4; 2', 3').
- 490 10. A device (1) according to any of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the guide means (2; 21) and the bow (3) extend in a plane (9) and in that the plane (9) includes an angle (12) with the perpendicular (8) to the supporting surface (5) which is preferably between 30° and 60° and in particular approx. 45°.
- 495 11. A device (1) according to any of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the additional supporting member is a strut (4).
- 500 12. A device (1) according to any of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the additional supporting member is an arc-shaped bow (3') slidably disposed in a guide means (2; 21).
- 505 13. A device (1) according to claim 12, characterized in that the respective planes (11; 11') of extension of two guide means (2; 2') include an angle (10) with each other which is preferably from 70° to 110° and in particular approx. 90°.
14. A ladder (23) comprising a device (1) according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the additional supporting member is the upper free end of the ladder (23).
- 510 15. A ladder (23) according to claim 14,

characterized in that the plane (9) of extension of the guide means (2; 21) includes an angle with the plane in which the ladder (23) extends which is preferably between 0° and 90° and in particular approx. 25°.

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16. A road traffic sign (18) comprising a device (1) according to any of claims 1 to 13.

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17. A wheelbarrow (22) comprising a device (1) according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the wheel of the wheelbarrow (22) constitutes the additional supporting member.

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18. A motorcycle comprising a device (1) according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the bow (3) is joined to the motorcycle as rotatable main stand and the front wheel or the rear wheel of the motorcycle constitutes the additional supporting member in use of the device.

19. A table (24) comprising a device (1) according to any of claims 1 to 13.

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20. A fence (32) comprising vertical fence posts (30) and horizontal fence members (34) connected thereto, wherein at least one of the fence posts (3) comprises a device (1) according to any of claims 1 to 13.

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21. A fence (32) according to claim 20, characterized in that the fence post (30) is substantially a rod (36) having at the lower end thereof the arc-shaped bow (3) and a strut (4).

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22. A fence (32) according to claim 20 or 21, characterized in that the fence post (30) is provided with connecting members (38) for hooking the horizontal fence members (34), and the horizontal fence members (34) are provided with corresponding connecting members (46).

23. A fence (32) according to any of claims 20 to 22,

545 characterized in that a horizontal fence member (34) is formed of at least  
two vertical struts (48) and at least two horizontal struts (50) that are  
connected to each other in articulated fashion such that the vertical struts  
are adapted to be displaced parallel to each other in the plane of the  
horizontal fence member (34).

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